EXAMINER'S COMMENT

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in

37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex*

Parte Quayle, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible

for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been

timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

Applicant's submission filed on 09/10/2010 has been entered.

2.   The new drawing filed 08/24/2010 is accepted.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

4.   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Mr. Jose S. Garcia, Registration No. 43,628 on 11/30/2010.

5.   The claims had been amended as the following:

        Claims 1-2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in ~~Claim~~ claim 21 wherein said selecting said next task from said plurality of tasks includes: selecting higher priority values before selecting lower priority values when possible.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in ~~Claim~~ claim 21 wherein said selecting said next task from said plurality of tasks includes: if a first particular task cannot be executed until a second particular task has completed execution, enabling selection of said first particular task after said second particular task has completed execution.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in ~~Claim~~ claim 21 further comprising: setting a timer based on said waiting period.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in ~~Claim~~ claim 21 wherein said plurality of tasks are BIOS (Basic Input Output System) initialization tasks.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in ~~Claim~~ claim 6 wherein a BIOS kernel receives said request for said particular waiting period.

Claims 8-9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> computer-readable medium as recited in ~~Claim~~ <u>claim</u> 22 wherein said selecting said next task from said <u>plurality of</u> tasks includes: selecting higher priority values before selecting lower priority values when possible.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> computer-readable medium as recited in ~~Claim~~ <u>claim</u> 22 wherein said selecting said next task from said <u>plurality of</u> tasks includes: if a first particular task cannot be executed until a second particular task has completed execution, enabling selection of said first particular task after said second particular task has completed execution.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> computer-readable medium as recited in ~~Claim~~ <u>claim</u> 22 further comprising: setting a timer based on said waiting period.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> computer-readable medium as recited in ~~Claim~~ <u>claim</u> 22 wherein said <u>plurality of</u> tasks are BIOS (Basic Input Output System) initialization tasks.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> computer-readable medium as recited in ~~Claim~~ <u>claim</u> 13 wherein a BIOS kernel receives said request for said particular waiting period.

Claims 15-20. (Canceled)

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A method of executing a plurality of tasks of different values, said method comprising:

utilizing preemptive multitasking and cooperative multitasking in execution of said plurality of tasks, wherein each task has a different priority value;

before starting any of said plurality of tasks, selecting and starting execution of a first task of said plurality of tasks, wherein said first task has highest priority value and is not dependent on completion of any other of said plurality of tasks;

while said first task is executing, receiving a request for a particular waiting period from said first task;

for duration of said particular waiting period, suspending execution of said first task; and

selecting a next task to execute, wherein said selecting said next task comprises:

selecting said next task from said plurality of tasks based on said priority values of said plurality of tasks and based on status designations representative of execution progress of said plurality of tasks, wherein said status designations include executing, waiting, interrupted, completed, and unstarted;

starting said selected task and changing status designation of said selected task to an executing task;

if said executing task requests a waiting period, suspending said executing task and changing status designation of said executing task to a waiting task and repeating said selecting said next task and said starting said selected task;

if said waiting period elapses for any waiting task and said executing task has a

higher priority value than said waiting task, changing status designation of said waiting

task to an interrupted task while allowing said executing task to continue execution;

if said waiting period elapses for any waiting task and said executing task does

not have a higher priority value than said waiting task, suspending said executing task

and changing status designation of said executing task to an interrupted task and

repeating said selecting said next task and said starting said selected task; and

if said executing task completes execution, changing status designation of said

executing task to a completed task and repeating said selecting said next task and said

starting said selected task.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable medium

comprising computer-executable instructions stored therein for performing a method of

executing a plurality of tasks of different priority values, said method comprising:

utilizing preemptive multitasking and cooperative multitasking in execution of said

plurality of tasks, wherein each task has a different priority value;

before starting any of said plurality of tasks, selecting and starting execution of a first

task of said plurality of tasks, wherein said first task has highest priority value and is not

dependent on completion of any other of said plurality of tasks;

while said first task is executing, receiving a request for a particular waiting period from

said first task;

for duration of said particular waiting period, suspending execution of said first task; and

selecting a next task to execute, wherein said selecting said next task comprises:

selecting said next task from said <u>plurality of</u> tasks based on said priority values of said <u>plurality of</u> tasks and based on status designations representative of execution progress of said <u>plurality of</u> tasks, wherein said status designations include executing, waiting, interrupted, completed, and unstarted;

starting said selected task and changing status designation of said selected task to an executing task if said executing task requests awaiting period, suspending said executing task and changing status designation of said executing task to a waiting task and repeating said selecting said next task and said starting said selected task;

if said waiting period elapses for any waiting task and said executing task has a higher priority value than said waiting task, changing status designation of said waiting task to an interrupted task while allowing said executing task to continue execution;

if said waiting period elapses for any waiting task and said executing task does not have a higher priority value than said waiting task, suspending said executing task and changing status designation of said executing task to an interrupted task and repeating said selecting said next task and said starting said selected task; and

if said executing task completes execution, changing status designation of said executing task to a completed task and repeating said selecting said next task and said starting said selected task.

Claims 23-27 (Canceled).

6.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior arts of recorded including the newly cited prior arts in the IDS filed 09/10/2010

when taken individually or in combination do not expressly teach or render obvious the

limitations recited in claims 21 and 22, **when taken in the context of the claims as a whole**,

specific to the limitation of selecting a next task to execute includes selecting said next task from

said plurality of tasks based on said priority values of said plurality of tasks and based on status

designations representative of execution progress of said plurality of tasks, wherein said status

designations include executing, waiting, interrupted, completed, and unstarted; starting said

selected task and changing status designation of said selected task to an executing task; if said

executing task requests a waiting period, suspending said executing task and changing status

designation of said executing task to a waiting task and repeating said selecting said next task

and said starting said selected task; if said waiting period elapses for any waiting task and said

executing task has a higher priority value than said waiting task, changing status designation of

said waiting task to an interrupted task while allowing said executing task to continue execution;

if said waiting period elapses for any waiting task and said executing task does not have a higher

priority value than said waiting task, suspending said executing task and changing status

designation of said executing task to an interrupted task and repeating said selecting said next

task and said starting said selected task; and if said executing task completes execution, changing

status designation of said executing task to a completed task and repeating said selecting said

next task and said starting said selected task.

At best the prior arts of record, specifically Kuki et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,168,566)

disclose a system and a method for executing a plurality of tasks of different priority values

including utilizing preemptive multitasking and cooperative multitasking in execution of said

tasks, wherein each task has a different priority values, before starting any of said tasks, selecting

and striating execution of a fist task of said tasks, wherein said first task has highest priority

value and is not depend on completion of any other of said tasks, while said first tasks is

executing, receiving a requests yielding from said first task, suspending execution of said first

task, and selecting a next task to execute, wherein said preemptive multitasking and said

cooperative multitasking increase utilization of processing power of a processor and ensure

higher priority valued tasks are executed with less interruption time than lower priority valued

tasks (see abstract; col. 2, lines 63-65; col. 14, lines 6-10; col. 3, lines 43-46; col. 4, lines 15-39;

col. 5, lines 1, 15-19; col. 14, lines 6-10). Shi et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,757897) disclose system

and method for managing tasks including the concept of tasks yielding, wherein yielding

includes a particular waiting period and suspending execution of task for duration of that

particular waiting period (see col. 3, line 65 through col. 4, lines 16).

        Thus, claims 21 and 22 are allowed over the prior arts of record.

7.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for

Allowance."

8.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Jennifer N. To whose telephone number is (571) 272-7212. The
examiner can normally be reached on M-T 6AM- 3:30 PM, F 6AM- 2:30 PM.

9.   If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the
organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

10.   Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent
Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications
may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished
applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR
system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR
system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

                                                        /Jennifer N To/
                                                        Patent Examiner, AU 2195